

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 DODE-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 GAC-01 L-03 T-03 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 SS-14 NSC-10 OMB-01 IGA-02 EURE-00 /081 W

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O R 131729 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3463

INFO COMICEDEFOR

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0270

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: CONVERSION OF 57 TH FIS TO F-4 S

REF: STATE 43526

1. FONMIN WAS ADVISED THAT WE INTEND REPLACE F-102 S WITH F-4 S, EXPLAINED AS BEING A ROUTINE MATTER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL MILITARY PRACTICE OF MODERNIZING EQUIPMENT. NO MENTION MADE OF AIRCRAFT NUMBERS OR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS. HE REQUESTED WRITTEN NOTIFICATION. WHEN ADVISED THIS BEING DONE THROUGH DEFENSE COUNCIL, HE REQUESTED NOTIFICATION BE TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY TO HIM INSTEAD AND THAT DEFENSE COUNCIL NOT BE INFORMED OF SUBJECT. HE ALSO REQUESTED ADMIRAL BELING AND I MEET WITH HIM THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS MATTER. WE PLAN DO THIS THURSDAY OR FRIDAY. UNLESS DEPT HAS VIEWS TO CONTRARY, WE PROPOSE TRANSMIT FOLLOWING WRITTEN NOTIFICATION:

BEGIN QUOTE

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1973, THE U. S. PLANS A ROUTINE MODERNIZATION OF EQUIPMENT OF THE 57 TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON, ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, LOCATED AT THE KEFLAVIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THERE WILL BE AN EXCHANGE OF OBSOLESCE F-102 AIRCRAFT WHICH HAS SERVED IN ICELAND SINCE 1962 AND WHICH IS
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BEING PHASED OUT OF SERVICE IN THE U. S. AIR FORCE WITH THE MODERN F-4 AIRCRAFT. THE F-4 HAS SUPERIOR COMBAT RADIUS, SPEED, FIRE POWER, IS BETTER ADAPTED FOR ITS ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE GROUND DEFENSE FORCE AND POSSESSES TWO ENGINES RESULTING IN GREATER FLYING SAFETY RELIABILITY. IT IS PLANNED THAT ONE OF THE NEW AIRCRAFT WILL ARRIVE THIS MONTH TO INITIATE TRAINING OF MAINTENANCE AND OTHER GROUND CREW PERSONNEL.

END QUOTE

2. THIS NOTIFICATION WILL BE BACKED UP WITH A PICTURE OF F-4 AND A SUMMARY OF RELATIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE TWO FIGHTERS. WE WILL TRY AVOID DISCUSSION OF PRECISE TIMING OF AIRCRAFT CONVERSIONS OR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS.

COMMENT: DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH MFA SEC GEN THORSTEINSSON LAST NIGHT, I ASKED WHY FONMIN MADE THIS REQUEST SINCE NORMALLY ON ANY MILITARY INSTALLATION SUCH EQUIPMENT CONVERSION WOULD BE A ROUTINE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. HE REPLIED FONMIN SUDDENLY BEING PRESSURED AGAIN IN CABINET BY IDF OPPONENTS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES ANY NOTICEABLE CHANGE OF IDF ACTIVITIES COULD BE MISCONSTRUED AND BECOME DETERIMENTAL TO IDF RETENTION. FONMIN DOES NOT BELIEVE DEFENSE COUNCIL SUFFICIENTLY SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND WANTS TO SATISFY HIMSELF ON MATTER.

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